

EUGENE F. MOONEY  
SECRETARY



JULIAN M. CARROLL  
GOVERNOR

|        |             |
|--------|-------------|
| Site:  | A.L. Taylor |
| Break: | 13.7        |
| Other: |             |

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

DEPARTMENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

A. L. ROARK  
COMMISSIONER  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

April 24, 1979

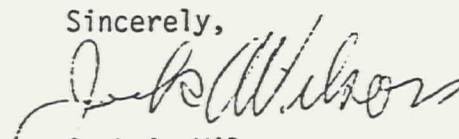
Mr. Bill Cole  
Wisconsin Department of  
Natural Resources  
P. O. Box 3600  
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303

Dear Mr. Cole:

Enclosed you will find the materials regarding the Valley of the Drums which you requested. We have included press releases and background information from which you should be able to glean appropriate summary information. I have also included some photo proof sheets should you wish additional photographs. I have asked our photographer to take some slides of two or three large aerial photographs of the site. When those are ready, I will forward them to you.

If you should need any further information, please don't hesitate to give me a call. We are happy to assist you and wish you well in your legislative endeavors.

Sincerely,

  
Jack A. Wilson  
Deputy Commissioner

JAW:jz

Enclosures



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# news

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

Department of Public Information

CONTACT: Edmund Shelby (502) 564-2041  
Department for Natural Resources  
and Environmental Protection

SPECIAL AREA:  
Jefferson, Bullitt, Hardin Counties

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Jan. 23, 1979)--The state's Bureau of Environmental Protection yesterday filed an administrative complaint against the operator of a hazardous waste dump site in Bullitt County.

In the complaint, Mrs. A. L. Taylor and the A. L. Taylor Drum Cleaning Service of Fairdale are charged with operating the facility without a state permit and polluting a nearby stream.

The state seeks a total of \$31,000 in civil penalties for each day of the violations, a permanent injunction and a requirement to clean up the site.

A hearing will be held on the matter Feb. 22, 1979, in Frankfort.

Mrs. Taylor is actually charged with violating four state laws.

The alleged violations are for transporting an undertermined number of drums containing solid or hazardous waste to the site; operating the facility without a state permit; storing the drums and their contents without receiving a permit and either directly or indirectly discharging pollutants into nearby Wilson Creek.

The site, one of several in the Louisville area that has caused public concern recently about the disposal of hazardous waste.



# news

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

Department of Public Information

PRESS ROW

CONTACT: Edmund Shelby (502) 564-2041  
Department for Natural Resources  
and Environmental Protection

SPECIAL AREA: Jefferson,  
Bullitt, Hardin Counties

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Jan. 24, 1979)--Kentucky's top environmental official told county officials from Jefferson, Bullitt and Hardin Counties today what state and federal actions are being taken concerning hazardous waste disposal sites in the three counties.

Eugene Mooney, secretary of the state's Department for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, met with county judges, mayors, law enforcement officers and other local officials at a 2 p.m. meeting in the Jefferson County Courthouse.

Mooney told the officials that state funds will be used to remove barrels containing hazardous waste from a farm in Jefferson County. He said his department is now negotiating with several contractors for the removal of the barrels and a contract should be awarded soon. The removal process will begin soon after the contract is awarded, he said.

The Jefferson site, known as the Distler farm because it is owned by William and Clara Distler of Louisville, is being cleared first, Mooney said, because it poses an immediate threat to the public and the environment.

The other sites in the area are being monitored, he said, and administrative action is being taken on two of them.

The department recently issued an abate and alleviate order to Donald Distler, son of William and Clara Distler, for his brickyard site in Hardin County. In effect, the department has ordered Distler to properly dispose of 2,000 to 3,000 barrels of chemical wastes stored at the site near West Point. A hearing on the order will be held Jan. 29 in Frankfort.

(MORE)

Monday, the department's Bureau of Environmental Protection filed an administrative complaint against Mrs. A. L. Taylor of Fairdale. The complaint charges Mrs. Taylor with operating an unpermitted hazardous waste dump site in Bullitt County. The matter will be heard in a Feb. 22 hearing to be held in Frankfort.

Mooney said he wanted to meet with the officials so they could learn, first-hand, what is being done about the problem and so they could take the proper steps to protect the public.



# news

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

Department of Public Information

CONTACT: Edmund Shelby, (502) 564-2041  
Department for Natural Resources

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 21, 1979)--The Kentucky Department for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection today released results from water and sediment samples taken at industrial waste sites near Louisville that show drinking water supplies are uncontaminated. However, various levels of organics, including low levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), were detected in the stream and sediment samples.

Sample results showing no contamination of the drinking water confirm results of samples taken in January.

Taken in February by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the samples show varying amounts of organics at the "Valley of the Drums," Wilson Creek, Pond Creek and Stump Gap Creek.

According to the EPA results, which were sent to the department late Monday, sediment samples taken at three sites at the Valley of the Drums show concentrations of PCBs within the 1 to 14 parts per million range. Samples from four sites along Wilson Creek show concentrations from 0.01 to 3.0 parts per million. Trace levels of PCBs were found in the sediment of Pond Creek and a trace (0.1 parts per million) of PCBs was found in Stump Gap Creek.

Concentrations of three parts per million and above are considered significant by EPA. PCBs in significant concentrations cause liver diseases, skin rashes and birth defects in humans and cancer in laboratory animals.

According to Eugene Mooney, the department's secretary, both water and sediment samples were taken for the Louisville area sites known as Benny's Last Chance (Distler Farm) in Jefferson County, an abandoned brickyard at West Point in Hardin County and the Valley of the Drums (A.L. Taylor farm) in Bullitt County.

"The stream that has highly contaminated was Wilson Creek," Mooney said. "The results show organics such as ketones and alcohols were present at the time of the sampling.

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However, it is believed that the filtration systems installed by EPA recently at the Valley of the Drums will minimize that problem, including PCBs."

"The PCBs show up in the sediment samples because they are heavier than water and so settle on the bottom," he said.

"It appears safe to assume that since the highest concentrations are at the site, then the PCBs originated from the site," he added.

The PCB levels decrease dramatically as the distance from the site increases. A mile downstream from the Valley of the Drums, the concentration drops to trace levels.

"Our major concern right now is to see that the public is protected from this potential threat," Mooney said. "We are advising against eating fish from any of these streams because PCBs can collect and multiply in the food chain, reaching accumulated concentrations in fish tissue. For example, 6.5 to 22 parts per million of PCBs were found in Lake Hartwell in South Carolina. Catfish fillets from the lake showed 110 parts per million."

Mooney also said that more samples will be taken in an attempt to determine the source of the PCBs and that a department biological survey of Wilson Creek has already gone. "Where and if we find the source, we will have to isolate it and either dispose of it or prevent it from escaping," Mooney said.

Mooney said that federal regulations, adopted in April of last year, limit disposal to federally approved landfills. There are only four such landfills in the nation.

If the PCBs are in liquid form, however, they must be burned in a federally approved incinerator. There are no such incinerators in existence, according to Mooney, so then it would have to be placed in special storage until a proper means of disposal can be found.

EPA banned the discharge of PCBs into rivers and streams in February, 1978. Since then, the only manufacturer of the chemical in the U.S., Monsanto Chemical Corp., has agreed to halt its production.

The chemical has been used in several manufacturing processes such as for auto tires and oil for electric transformers.



# news

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

Department of Public Information


CONTACT: Maribeth Schmitt (502) 564-2041  
Department for Natural Resources  
and Environmental Protection

## PRESS ADVISORY

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 23, 1979)--An administrative hearing concerning the chemical waste dump site in Bullitt County will be held on March 27th at 9 a.m. in the 24th Floor Conference Room of the Capital Plaza Tower in Frankfort.

In an administrative complaint issued by the state on January 22, Mrs. A. L. Taylor and the A. L. Taylor Drum Cleaning Service of Fairdale were charged with operating the facility without a permit and polluting a nearby stream.

The hearing is being held to allow Taylor to testify.



# Kentucky news

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

Department of Public Information

CONTACT: Edmund Shelby  
Department for Natural Resources  
and Environmental Protection  
502-564-2041

Statewide

FRANKFORT, Ky., April 12, 1979--Eugene Mooney, secretary of the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, today announced a state strategy for the handling of liquid hazardous wastes in the future.

He also announced that the strategy will be employed first at the illegal Bullitt County hazardous waste dump site known as the Valley of the Drums.

Mooney said the state will support, as a demonstration project, the locating of a liquid waste incinerator, a chemical recycling operation and a barrel cleaning service at or near the Bullitt County site.

The state's strategy, he said, is aimed at locating more "high technology" incinerators in the future, along with chemical neutralizers and recycling facilities.

"We are adopting a policy in Kentucky," Mooney said, "of encouraging the application of high technology solutions for chemical waste streams. High technology solutions means no burial."

Mooney said that the state's policy is the best way of getting ahead of the liquid chemical waste problem in the state and that landfills are seldom a viable option for disposal of liquid wastes.

He said this department will help in locating sites and in applying "appropriate technologies" to the wastes produced by Kentucky's generators.

He also said that the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has examined the state's strategy and supports it. Mooney said he calls the plan a state strategy because the 1978 General Assembly expressed its preference for

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recycling wastes and opposition to burial of hazardous wastes.

Concerning the Valley of the Drums or the A. L. Taylor site, Mooney said that William Fluhr of Liquid Processors, Inc. of Louisville has indicated he will apply for an air pollution permit so he can locate a liquid waste incinerator at the site.

"The state will apply this new policy to Mr. Fluhr's proposed operation," Mooney said. "We will make available to him the sampling data gathered by the state and will provide technical assistance in preparing his site and operating plans. We will also expedite his permit reviews."

Mooney said that all environmental protection requirements will have to be met by Fluhr and all other applicants. He also said that proposed state and federal hazardous waste requirements which are not yet in effect must be followed. And he added that all wastes to be incinerated must be analyzed and that no toxic wastes can be incinerated.

Mooney said that Fluhr's incinerator meets all state standards. He said the state is familiar with the incinerator because of two previous attempts by Fluhr to locate the operation.